

credit both of their parents in teaching them the importance of community and giving back.

Madam Speaker, Miriam and Ari are most deserving of the Community Service Award from YIS. Congratulations to them on this honor.

#### HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC

##### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wayne High School's AFJROTC's 25th anniversary. AFJROTC Unit IN-941 was established in 1994 at Wayne High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, under the leadership of Major Ed Bennett and Senior Master Sergeant Bill Tester. Since its inception, AFJROTC Unit IN-941 has prepared over 2,800 cadets for military service and success in and out of the classroom.

The mission of the AFJROTC is to develop citizens of character, dedicated to serving their nation and community. Now, two decades after its establishment, the Wayne High School AFJROTC continues to uphold the mission. Over the last five years, an average of 122 cadets have joined Unit IN-941. The unit has recorded an impressive 1647 Leadership Development Requirement hours with extracurricular activities such as Model Rocketry, the Academic Bowl and Junior Shooting. Cadets give back to our community by providing Color Guards for events and assisting with Honor Flights from Ft. Wayne. In fact, Unit IN-941 has logged over 4143 hours of community service and has set a goal of 1200 hours for 2019.

Unit IN-941 has prepared its cadets for success. About five percent of all cadets pursue military-related careers after graduation. I recently had the privilege of appointing Wayne High School AFJROTC cadet Wendy Samayoa to the United States Air Force Academy. Every cadet who served in Unit IN-941 at Wayne High School gained valuable skills and experiences that prepared them for life after high school.

Congratulations to Wayne High School's AFJROTC Unit IN-941 on their 25th anniversary.

#### HONORING ANDREI BEZZUBIKOFF

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two pillars of the Scarsdale community, Andrei Bezzubikoff, this year's Distinguished Service Award honoree at the Young Israel of Scarsdale 47th Annual Dinner.

Andrei studied Theology at the Facultad de Teología Pontificia y Civil de Lima. He later graduated from the Stated University of New York at Purchase in 2013, and went on to receive his Masters degree from St. John's University.

Since 1997, Andrei has worked at Young Israel of Scarsdale. He also serves as adjunct

faculty at my alma mater, Lehman College, since 2018. Andrei has become a beloved part of the YIS community and is well known throughout the congregation.

Outside of his professional work at YIS, Andrei is also a very accomplished author. In 2008, his short story *La Mujer de los Barcos*, was awarded first prize at the "2008 Palabras" contest in Lima-Perú. In 2010, *Asilos de Luz*, his short narrative book, was published by Hipocampo Editores. He had read his work at McNally bookstore, at Westchester Community College, Purchase College, and at the Ossining Public Library.

Of course, Andrei's true love and passion in life is his family. He has been married to his wife, Shirley, since 2001 and they have two wonderful children, Oleg age 13 and Ilari age 11. Andrei's hobbies also include reading, playing soccer, visiting museums, listening to classical music and traveling.

Madam Speaker, no one is more deserving of the Distinguished Service Award than Andrei Bezzubikoff. I want to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his years of service to the Scarsdale community.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHAD PADGETT

##### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute today and thank Chad Padgett for his years of service on my staff, the great state of Alaska, and to the United States of America.

Chad Padgett first came to work in my office in 1994 and has served as my State Director for more than a decade. Madam Speaker, to put the magnitude and demands of his job into perspective requires some explanation. There are only seven other states in the U.S. House of Representatives that have State Directors. In the other 43 states, the position is commonly referred to as District Director. For example, the State of California has 53 House District Directors.

During Mr. Padgett's tenure in my office he has traveled to almost every city, town, village and road stop in the state. That's quite an accomplishment in and of itself, when you think about how large the 49th state actually is. Alaska has 6640 miles of coastline representing 50 percent of our nation's total coastline and is one-fifth the size of the entire country. Many of the places Mr. Padgett has traveled to have only been accessible by air or water. Remember, even our state capitol, the third largest city in the state, can only be accessed by plane or ferry. He has traveled by car, truck, jet, single-engine plane, helicopter, state ferry, and boats of all sizes and makes.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Padgett has had a lot of geography to cover in Alaska—more than California, Texas and Montana combined. These three states have 90 people doing what Mr. Padgett does.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Padgett joined my team in 1994 as a Campaign Assistant. In 1995, he became a Special Assistant in my congressional office and quickly became my Deputy State Director. He remained in that position until, under President George W. Bush's

administration, he received a Presidential nomination to serve as State Director for the Farm Services Agency. From there, he became the State Director for USDA Rural Development. He remained with the USDA until 2009, when he chose to come back to work as my State Director.

As much as I hate to see Mr. Padgett leave my office, I am equally pleased that he has been selected to serve as the State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska.

Mr. Padgett will excel in his new position. He brings to the job the right temperament, integrity, experience and knowledge necessary to provide leadership and stewardship overseeing our federal lands.

Mr. Padgett has proven himself as a loyal, competent and respected public servant. He has shown care and compassion for literally thousands of Alaskans by helping them resolve their problems and navigate the bureaucratic mazes.

He is well-liked by his co-workers and has helped mentor many young staffers by instilling his core values of hard work, loyalty, responsibility and maintaining a positive attitude.

To me, Chad Padgett is more than my State Director. Most of all, he is a trusted friend. He is an advisor with my best interests always at heart. He is like family—and always will be.

While it is difficult thinking of his departure from my staff, it gives me a great sense of pride and comfort knowing he will oversee and be the steward for about a quarter-of-a-billion acres of federal land in Alaska.

On behalf of the countless number of Alaskans that he has helped, his co-workers, and most of all, my family and me—I thank him and God bless.

We are excited and extend our best wishes to him for the challenges ahead.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD HART, THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS 2019 MAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Hart, who was named the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons Man of the Year at their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Edward is a Pittston native and the son of the late Edward and Jean Morrow Hart. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and the University of Scranton.

Edward has dedicated his career to radio and broadcast television, concentrating in revenue development and management. He began his career at WARM before moving on to Magic 93. In 1988, while working at Q102 Radio, Edward became the youngest radio station manager in the country. He then transitioned to television, working in various sales and management roles for WOLF-TV, which later became FOX56. In 1998, Edward was the first to generate over \$1 million in revenue in FOX history. Edward transitioned to WNEP in 2006 where he also managed the local sales efforts to record levels.

Edward is an active member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. In 2014,

he served as president during the group's centennial year. He dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort liaising with the Secret Service and the Office of the Vice President to secure Vice President Joe Biden as the principal speaker at the organization's centennial celebration. Edward also instituted the recitation of St. Patrick's prayer to begin every meeting—in order to honor the group's patron saint.

Edward has been married to his wife, Natalie Amico Hart, for 25 years, and they have three children, Edward IV, Alexandra, and Emma. Edward is actively involved in his community as a youth sports coach for basketball, baseball, football, and soccer. He is a member of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston and a 4th Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus Assembly No. 948 and JFK Council No. 372.

It is an honor to recognize Edward as the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons 2019 Man of the Year. I thank him for his dedicated service to our community and wish him the best this St. Patrick's Day.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF BETTY  
CONNER

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**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Pittsburg resident, Ms. Betty Conner.

Betty was born on May 20, 1936 in Soudheimer, Louisiana to parents Maggie and Ray Frost. She soon made her way to Contra Costa County, and Betty spent 73 years as a resident of Pittsburg and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1964. For 29 years, Betty served the community and worked as a nurse for Contra Costa County Social Services.

For a decade, Betty and her husband of 50 years, Douglas, used their retirement income to cook lunches for children in downtown Pittsburg. After Douglas' passing in 2009, Betty continued serving meals with the help of her granddaughter, Tanica Currie.

In 2014, Betty's community efforts were officially established as a non-profit organization called Branches of Community Service. Now, Betty's annual backpack and toy drives service over 125 children and her free Saturday lunches continue to be a trusted and important resource for Pittsburg youth.

Betty and Douglas' contributions to the Pittsburg community have been celebrated. Douglas was honored by the City of Pittsburg with a cement plaque at the local park across from the Conner residence and Betty was recognized as a Woman of the Year for Contra Costa County.

Betty is survived by her five sons and many relatives. She will be sincerely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her, and will be remembered for her endless service to the community.

HONORING SYLVIA LASK

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my great and distinct privilege to honor one of my dearest friends, the incomparable Sylvia Lask, as she celebrated her 85th birthday this year on February 25th.

Born in 1934 to Vera Lask and Max Lask, Sylvia was one of three children in the family, which included her brothers Ronald and Robert. She grew up in Detroit, Michigan and later moved to New York City, where she became certified as a dietician. Sylvia and I first met when we were both living in Co-op City. I had knocked on her door while gathering petition signatures, and she began asking me all kinds of questions pertinent to both our community and the political world. After we had a long chat, I asked if she was a member of the local political club, and suggested she join us at the next meeting. She did, and we became fast friends.

Sylvia and I were both heavily involved in the club's work from there on out. She went on to serve as Democratic State Committee Person, was also a delegate at two democratic conventions, for Ted Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

Sylvia is a fierce advocate for her community and always a strong voice on the issue of mental health. Her lobbying trips to Albany have become the stuff of legend. Among other things, her efforts led to the passage of the Mental Health in Education Act, which requires Mental Health to be taught in all public schools in New York State. Even at 85, Sylvia still makes those weekly trips to Albany and continues her advocacy work on behalf of the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS).

When not saving the world, Sylvia enjoys listening to folk music—specifically The Weavers, Pete Seeger and Peter Paul and Mary—and taking long strolls. Her spirit is indomitable; she never sits down, never spends too much time celebrating a victory, and is always planning the next steps needed to advance patient rights. Sylvia's drive has always been fueled in large part by her family and friends. She was married to Sam Hershkowitz and has two beautiful children, Vicki and Marc, and one grandchild, Ron. They are the light in Sylvia's life.

Madam Speaker, I count myself fortunate every day to know Sylvia Lask, and I'm not alone in feeling that way about such a special individual. Her list of friends, from elected officials to community activists and everyone in between, is too long to list. She has done incredible work to help the people of New York over many decades, and her contributions cannot be overstated.

Sylvia is like a family member to me and my entire family. I am so honored to recognize her achievements, and I am so thankful to have her in my life.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV-  
EREND DOCTOR MYRON  
PANCHUK

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, and as a Chicagoan, to honor the memory of Reverend Doctor Myron Panchuk, a widely respected religious leader and community activist whose sudden passing on March 9th brought tremendous sadness and reflection to the Ukrainian-American community in Chicago and beyond.

A pillar of Chicago's Ukrainian-American community, Father Myron served countless parishioners throughout his 37 years of Priesthood for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Diocese of Chicago. In addition to assisting thousands of Chicagoans from all faiths and backgrounds, Fr. Myron was actively involved in more than half a dozen community organizations, including during his tenure as Vice President of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation.

After decades of community service, Fr. Myron turned to academia and activism. In 2017, he earned a Ph.D. researching the effects of intergenerational trauma on ethnic Ukrainians. He was committed to building coalitions to fight for ethnic and racial justice, especially in the area of genocide prevention.

In recent years, as Ukraine's sovereignty has been challenged and outside interference appears unrelenting, Fr. Myron, as an example to us all, continued to pray, and to work, to end the violence and corruption that has marred his ancestral homeland.

He will be especially remembered for his optimism and courage, and for his faith in a young, new wave of Ukrainian-Americans who face the challenge, and opportunity, of healing the scars of the past and building the future of the Ukrainian-American community. While the City of Chicago and Ukrainian-Americans everywhere mourn his loss, Fr. Myron's legacy is sure to live on in the hearts of all those who knew him.

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IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM J.  
WILLIAMS, RECIPIENT OF THE  
GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY  
SONS' SWINGLE AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William J. Williams, who will receive the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons' Swingle Award. William was honored on Sunday, March 17, at the Friendly Sons' annual St. Patrick's Day event.

William was born to William and Susan Rudick Williams on May 25, 1955. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School (class of 1973), and he earned an associate degree in industrial electronics from Luzerne County Community College and a real estate license from Penn State University.

William found success in a variety of fields throughout his career, in the medical field as